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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F H O L Y W E L L

:: FOR THE YEAR ::

1 9 3 7.

HOLYWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO:-

The Chairman and Members of the
HOLYWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs Hoggarth and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

Agriculture and Lead Mining are the chief Industries of the Area, giving employment to many hundreds. During the year there were signs that unemployment had decreased somewhat.

Area in Acres	58,550.
Population	20,560.
No. of Inhabited Houses	6,644.
Rateable Value	£71,608.
Sum represented by 1d Rate	£267. 18. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	351.	171.	180.	Birth Rate per 1000
Legitimate	334.	165.	169.	of the population
Illegitimate	17.	6.	11.	- 17·0.
Still Births.	24.	13.	11.	Rate per 1000 live
Legitimate		13.	11.	and still births
Illegitimate	-	-	-	- 18·0
Deaths.	290.	146.	144.	Death Rate per 1000
				- 14·1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	3.	Rate per 1000 live
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	and still Births
		- 8·0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1000 live Births			48.4.
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...			50.8.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	35	Rate ..	1·7
Deaths from Measles (All ages)	1	..	0·04
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages)...	1	..	0·04
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	Nil	..	Nil.

The Death Rate (14·1) compares favourably with that of last year (14·17). The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 14·9 and the death rate 12·5.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
All causes	146.	144.
Measles	-	1.
Whooping Cough	-	1.
Influenza	6.	13.
Eucaphalitis Lethargica	1.	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5.	6.
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2.	1.
Cancer	14.	21.
Diabetes	1.	2.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	7.	11.
Heart Disease	34.	27.
Other Circulatory Diseases	9.	5.
Bronchitis	7.	3.
Pneumonia (all forms)	15.	2.
Other Respiratory Diseases	3.	1.
Appendicitis	2.	-
Liver Diseases	-	1.
Other digestive diseases	4.	2.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6.	8.
Puerperal Sepsis	-	3.
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	7.	6.
Senility	5.	13.
Suicide	2.	1.
Other Violence	7.	3.
Other defined Diseases	8.	13.
Diseases ill defined or not known ...	1.	-

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part time)

I. PHILIPPINE NELIS, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors (Whole time)

R. D. JONES, C.R.S.I.
Member of the Institute of Municipal & County Engineers.

A. O. GRIFFITHS, C.R.S.I.
Certified Inspector (Meat and Foods).

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(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

When required this is carried out by arrangement with Bangor University and Chester Assay Office.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

This still remains a source of great concern to me and it is to be hoped that the prospects of A.R.P. organization may stimulate improvement.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Voluntary organizations provide the existing facilities.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided by the County Council and organized by them.

(e) HOSPITALS.

There is no Hospital in the area

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following Water Companies supply water within the District :-

BRYMBO WATER CO.
HAWARDEN & DISTRICT WATER CO.
MOLD GAS AND WATER CO.
BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION (To the Council in bulk)

In consequence of building developments, a number of extensions were laid during the year.

A Scheme of Water Supply for the village of Nannerch, consisting of about 2,260 lineal yards of 3 inch spun iron pipes, and 870 yards of 1½ inch galvanized iron pipes, together with the necessary valves and fittings, has received the approval of the Ministry and arrangements have been made to commence on the work.

All the principal supplies have been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

As will be observed in other paragraphs, a number of samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis.

Analysis of Water. Samples taken for

(a) Bacteriological Examination	9
(b) Chemical Examination	2
Total	11.

Results of Analysis :-

Bacteriological Examination :- Satisfactory - 3 : Unsatisfactory - 6.
Chemical Examination :- Satisfactory - 2.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All Sewers and Outfall Works are well maintained. Schemes have been prepared and adopted by the Council for the sewering of :-

(a) Part of Leeswood Village
(b) Part of Newmarket Village
(c) Gwernaffield Village.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been made with respect to these.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation in the non sewered areas is by means of the pail system. Some dwellings are provided with septic tanks and cesspools for the reception of sewage.

In sewered areas, conversion from the conservancy system to the water carriage system has been undertaken by many property owners.

All new property erected in sewered areas are provided with water closets connected to the local authority's sewer and to Septic Tanks and Cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging of the whole area is undertaken by the Council, the District being divided up into 15 areas for the purpose. The work is carried out by means of Contracts.

Generally the work has been carried out satisfactorily throughout the year with the exception of Districts Nos 10 & 11 where numerous complaints were received mostly on account of the Contractors being irregular in removing contents of the bins and pails. This laxity on the part of the Contractors causes considerable inconvenienc to many house holders.

SHOP INSPECTIONS.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to this district are enforced. Notices have been served upon occupiers to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation, which were complied with. Where washing facilities were found to be inadequate notices were served and complied with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There were no complaints relating to smoke nuisances during the year. In a district containing a large number of Factories this points to a high standard of efficiency on the part of the persons operating the furnaces and boilers.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is only one Swimming Pool within the district. This is privately owned and open only during the summer months.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No complaints were received during the year.

SCHOOLS.

All schools are periodically visited and inspected, the water supply and sanitation supervised.
These have been found satisfactory.

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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Nuisances found		67.
Number of nuisances abated...		57.
(a) after informal notices served ..	38	
(b) after statutory notice served ..	19	
Disused Shafts securely fenced		5.
(a) after informal notice served ..	4	
(b) after statutory notice served ..	1	

DETAILS OF HOUSE INSPECTION.

Total number of houses inspected	216.
Houses inspected and defects found..	133.
Houses repaired	91.
Roofs repaired	42.
Chimneys repaired	11.
Gutters and Downspouts repaired	30.
Walls repaired	23.
Floors repaired	17.
New fireplaces fixed	2.
Hand rails fixed	6.
Windows repaired	18.
Broken Washing Boiler repaired	4.
Water Service pipe repaired	4.
Broken wash Basin replaced	1.
Waste water pipes repaired	4.
Closets repaired and converted into Pail closets	9.
Closets converted into W.C's.	1.
Earth removed from walls of houses..	5.
Drains opened, cleaned and repaired	25.
New drains laid	1.
Yards repaved	11.
New ashbins supplied	36.
New Sanitary Pails provided	40.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	1(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected	216.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	216.
	2(a) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	216.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	251.
	3. Number of dwelling houses found in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation	-
	4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	133.
2.	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority	91.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9,10 and 16, HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ... ... Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after formal notice ... ... Nil.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 47.

2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
   (a) By Owners ... ... 34.
   (b) By Local Authority in default ... Nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... 25.

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - OVERCROWDING.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 327.
   2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ... 327.
   3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... 1849.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... 23.

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... 36.
   2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 195.

(d) Dwelling houses again overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps for abatement . ... Nil.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are 25 Factories and 64 Workshops in the District. Periodical inspections are made and all have been found to comply with requirements.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. The majority of Cowsheds and Dairies in the District were inspected during the year.

There has been considerable improvement in the conditions under which milk is produced. A large number of cow keepers and Dairymen make an effort to provide the public with clean milk. There are others who are not so particular and every effort is made to keep them under observation.

Structural imprevoments have been made to a number of cowsheds during the year, such as improved methods of lighting, ventilation, impervious floors and drainage systems.

Milk is delivered in many cases in bottles which must be filled in registered premises. They are often delivered in open carts and are therefore liable to contamination from dust which may contain contaminating matters of a serious nature. It has been observed that the caps of the milk bottles delivered to schools have been covered with dust. It would be advisable for all retailers and milk transporters to have covered vehicles for the transport of milk. Two farms in the district produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Fourteen samples of milk were sent during the year for Bacteriological examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter houses and butchers shops in the District are visited regularly. An effort is made to inspect all animals slaughtered in the area and on the whole are found to be of good quality and in sound condition.

All places where food is produced, stored and sold, have been visited during the year and are generally satisfactory.

During the year the following carcases of meat were inspected and found in good condition :-

Cattle (Excluding Cows)..	358.
Cows	68.
Calves	62.
Sheep and Lambs	1545.
Pigs	577.

Found diseased and destroyed :-

One entire carcase of beef..	-	Tuberculosis
Four Sheep Carcases	-	Emaciation
Eight Cow livers and 53 Sheep Livers	-	Various Diseases.
Five Pigs' Heads	-	Tuberculosis.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. Killed (if Known)					
No. inspected	358	68	62	1545	577
All diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcases condemned				4	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		8		53	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcase condemned		1			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					5

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in this Area.

ADULTERATION.

This is administered by the County Council.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The examination of milk is carried out at Bangor University. There has been no occasion for other food examination.

NUTRITION (DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE)

So far nothing has been undertaken by this Council.

SHELL FISH.

The Shell fish layings in the area are very few - no pollution has been found contaminating these beds.

The shell fish are sent to markets of Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

The layings (from which cockles and mussels are derived) are situated at Mostyn.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The prevalence of notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year has been remarkably low and in spite of the epidemic of Diphtheria in the surrounding districts.

The Council provides for the use of Diphtheria Antitoxin and also cases of Diphtheria are removed to Hospital, but in regard to Scarlet Fever removal has been carried out where overcrowding exists or interference with the work of the family has appeared to warrant this procedure. There has been no evidence of spread in cases remaining at home.

No other infection calls for comment. The experience of this district in the face of an epidemic suggests that in Rural areas hospitalisation is not the ideal method to cope with infection.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

This is administered by the County Council

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	AGE PERIODS												Total	Cases sent to Hospital	DEATHS.	RATE
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65				
SCARLET FEVER			1	2	1	14	5	1					24	2		1·16.
DIPHTHERIA					1	2	6	2	4	1			16	6		0·77.
PUERPERAL PYREXIA									2	1			3		1	8·0
ERYSIPELAS											3	1	4			0·19.
PNEUMONIA	4	4		2	1			2	2	3	8		26		17	1·26.
TOTAL	4	4	1	4	3	16	11	5	8	5	11	1	73	8	18	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages.	NEW CASES Respiratory M.	NEW CASES Respiratory F.	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory. M.	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory. F.	DEATHS. Respiratory M.	DEATHS. Respiratory F.	DEATHS. Non-Respiratory M.	DEATHS. Non-Respiratory F.
0.								
1.			1	2				1
5.		1	2	3				
15.	6	3		1		1		
25.	3	5		1				
35.	5			1				1
45.			1				1	
55.	4				1			
65 & Upwards	1	3			1			
TOTAL.	19.	12.	4.	8.	2.	1.	1.	2.

Death Rate - 0·29.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

There is a notable influx of Tubercular patients from cities and populous districts, advised to seek country air. These sick people become residents and die in the district raising the total of Tubercular deaths. I deplore the practice of sending very sick people of small means to the more rigorous circumstances of a country cottage where sanitation and other facilities are inadequate, to eke out a slow and lingering end.

All cases of Tuberculosis have been notified. There has been no cause for action to be taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified	Treatment at Home	In Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness
2	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Rate per 1000 Births 5·6.

(Signed) I. PHILIPPINE NELIS,
Medical Officer of Health

Holywell Rural District Council.

The Manse,
Mold.

July 13th, 1938.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
1.	2.	3.	4.
FACTORIES Including Factory Laundries	25	-	-
WORKSHOPS Including Workshop Laundries	66	-	-
WORKPLACES Other than Outworkers' premises	6	-	-
TOTAL	97.	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS	Number of defects: Found.	Number of defects: Remedied.	Number of defects: Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :-				
Want of Cleanliness	4	3	-	-
Want of Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Want of drainage of floors..	-	-	-	-
Other Nuisances.	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Accommod-ation (Insufficient.. ..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Accommod-ation (Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Accommod-ation (Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :-				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s 101)	-	-	-	--
Other Offences ... . (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8.	7.	-	-